

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:129
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2003
BSNL/MTNL SIM CARDS
KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD;PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the supply of BSNL/MTNL sim cards is not keeping pace with their demand in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 129 FOR 10TH DECEMBER, 2003 REGARDING BSNL/MTNL SIM CARDS.

(a) & (b): Sir, BSNL and MTNL had planned the switching capacity and the requirement of SIM cards in accordance with forecast at the time of starting of mobile cellular service in their respective service areas. Due to popularity of the services, the capacity was exhausted much earlier than anticipated. Further, the requirements of cellular connections have been more than the earlier forecast on account of high demand, which resulted into shortage of SIM cards temporarily. As the number of SIM cards procured by BSNL is higher than the capacity, BSNL is able to meet the present requirement of SIM cards to meet full capacity utilization at all location over its service areas, through redistribution of SIM cards.

In regard to MTNL there is no shortage of SIM cards.

(c) Additional SIM cards are made available to the field units as and when capacities are created either due to expansion or churn of subscribers. To meet future requirements additional capacities have been planned and procurement action has been initiated by both MTNL and BSNL. Advertisements have been placed in local newspapers listing the locations at which SIM cards are available in the Circle. The status of exchange capacity, SIMs supplied and number of cellular connections provided, service area-wise, is at Annexure.

ANNEXURE

STATUS OF SIM CARDS AS ON 30.11.2003

BSNL

Sl No.	Licensed- Service Area	Subscriber capacity	SIMs Procured	No. of connections provided
1	A & N Islands	5000	10130	4741
2	Andhra Pradesh	595600	730193	512483
3	Bihar (Including Jharkhand)	241250	460193	210769
4	Gujarat	459750	579150	479474
5	Haryana	134565	214091	150229
6	Himachal Pradesh	43800	74238	55886
7	Jammu & Kashmir	41200	73300	23077
8	Karnataka	340150	421083	318441
9	Kerala	326586	477784	334328
10	Madhya Pradesh	135850	185348	150232
(including Chhattisgarh)				
11	Maharashtra	495300	633846	563234
12	Orissa	132950	239410	141528
13	Punjab	343000	479039	273023
14	Rajasthan	180550	258870	183613

15 Tamil Nadu	334900	466884	335000
16 UP (W) including Uttaranchal	287800	454624	297744

17 UP (East)	293100	389680	299002
18 West Bengal	147350	265645	137798
19 Chennai TD	131000	183750	120450
20 Kolkata TD	15000	100000	22626

Total	4684701	6697301	4613677
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MTNL

21 Delhi (Delhi + NCR region of Gurgaon, Faridabad & Noida)	225000	304045	156321
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22 Mumbai (Mumbai + Navi Mumbai + Kalyan + Dombivili)	225000	323400	166456
Total	450000	627445	322777`
Grand Total	5124701	7324746	49364554

(BSNL + MTNL)